

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 9, 15 and 16 have been amended and claim 2 has been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-16 are pending in the present application.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 6, 7, 9 and 10. In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2.

The objections to claims 1, 7, 9, 15 and 16 are noted. In response, the claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

With the amending of claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable claim 2, all prior art rejections have been rendered moot. Accordingly, indication of allowance of claims 1 and 3-16 is respectfully requested.

In addition, with respect to Applicants' claim to foreign priority, Applicants wish to point out that the present application was timely filed as a continuation of the corresponding International application which designated the United States. Accordingly, the present application is entitled to the benefit of the priority of the corresponding Japanese national application from which the International application was filed. A certified copy of the Japanese application was filed in the International application.

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In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration of the amendment to the specification, favorable consideration of the amendments to claims 1, 7, 9, 15 and 16, and allowance of the present application with claims 1 and 3-16 is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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